



Staff Report

October 16, 2017

To: Mayor Michel and Town Council

From: Bob Nevins, Town Planner

Thru: Michael Yerman, Community Development Director

Subject: **Parking Committee Recommendations**

Background:

Town Council appointed a Parking Committee to study and make recommendations to improve the congestion and parking impacts in town. The Committee held five (5) work sessions and one (1) public parking management meeting with the Councils of Mt. Crested Butte, the Town and CBMR staff between August 10 and October 5, 2017. Discussion topics included: 1) Background information/previous studies; project goals and objectives; 2) parking management program including paid and permit parking, program components/technology, fees and enforcement; 3) Potential parking alternatives and solutions; 4) Winter parking policies, signage, ticketing/towing and snow removal; and 5) Review and prioritization of alternatives; and drafting of recommendations to Town Council.

The Parking Committee consists of the following members:

Citizens-Kim Raines, Todd Carroll, Chris (Buck) Myall and Kathy Joyce

Council Members- Jackson Petito and Chris Ladoulis

Mt. Express- Chris Larsen

Public Works- Rodney Due

Marshal- Joe Dukeman

Community Development- Michael Yerman and Bob Nevins

Goals and Objectives: In researching previous transportation and traffic studies, the community's goals have remained consistent over the past 35 years:

- Crested Butte is a pedestrian and bicycle friendly community;
- Transit ridership is promoted;
- Automobile usage in town is discouraged; and
- Traffic and parking solutions should be compatible with the community's historic scale and character while utilizing the existing physical, economic and staffing resources to the greatest extent possible.

The Parking Committee realized in its study of the current situation, that 1) parking is "free and easy" and 2) that we cannot "build our way out" of the parking problem. In order to fully realize our shared community goals, people's behavior needs to change. For this reason, the Parking Committee reached

a consensus and offers the following parking recommendations for consideration and implementation by Town Council:

- 1. Elk Avenue:** Maintain two-way, shared automobile/bicycle traffic with parallel parking on both sides of the street;
Maintain 15 mph speed limit;
Encourage use of public transit; and
Continue closing the street for Special Events during peak seasons.
- 2. Management:** Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) and develop an Integrated Parking Management Program (2018) to reduce congestion, maximize parking downtown and minimize impacts to residential neighborhoods.
 - Allocate \$25,000.00 for hiring a consultant to assist in developing the parking management program for town (funding source: *Transportation Sales Tax* and included in 2018 Town Budget); and
 - Allocate \$5,000.00 to hire a consultant to develop the on-line parking website (funding source: *Transportation Sales Tax* and included in 2018 Town Budget).Implement Parking Management Program (2019) to include:
 - a) Timed/paid parking within Downtown Core
 - b) Timed/paid parking at 4-way lots
 - c) Timed/enforced parking within Neighborhoods
 - d) Resident parking permits
 - e) Employee/guest parking permits
 - f) Intercept lot at school and other shared parking agreements
- 3. Winter Regulation:** Improve clarity of winter parking regulations on street signs to reduce ticketing and towing of vehicles and to enable snow removal operations (*See attached signs 1-2*).
 - Allocate \$10,000.00 for new winter parking regulation signage (funding source: *Street and Alley Fund* and included in the 2018 Town Budget).
- 4. Additional Parking:** Pave and stripe existing parking areas, when funding is available, to increase accessibility, utilization and service while minimizing maintenance.
- 5. Safety:** Paint yellow curbs at the intersections along Maroon and Sopris Avenues between 2nd and 4th Streets to clearly identify the 30-foot setbacks and to improve sight angles and public safety.
 - Allocate \$5,000.00 for painting of curbs at street intersections (funding source: *Street and Alley Fund* and included in the 2018 Town Budget).

Summary:

The Parking Committee's recommendations are directed at easing and/or solving our current parking issues in town by effectively and efficiently utilizing our existing parking supply, current staffing and existing budgetary resources. As indicated above, the proposed recommendations have been included in the 2018 Town Budget. Should Town Council not agree with a specific recommendation, that funding can be eliminated from the 2018 Town budget.

The Committee would like to thank Town Council for providing the opportunity to study and address the parking issues that exist in town. While identifying the issues has been challenging, implementing the recommendations may be an even a greater challenge. The Committee explored a wide range of potential short, mid and long term options. After much discussion, our recommendation is to develop and implement a comprehensive parking management plan that is flexible, adaptable and cost-effective instead of trying "to build our way out" with expensive capital improvement projects. The Committee recognizes that there may be a need to organize a Parking Management Committee with representatives from downtown businesses, organizations and residential neighborhoods to work with the consultant team and staff, realizing that additional public outreach and focus group meetings will be necessary over the coming year so that the parking management program can adjusted dependent on the public input. Change is not easy, but we believe the steps outlined above are in the community's best, long term interest; that they are reflective our shared goals and values; and that they can be successfully put into practice gradually with community participation and support. Additionally, Town Council has the authority to terminate the parking management program at any time between now and actual implementation.

Staff Recommendation:

A Council member should make a motion to allocate funding as outlined above in the Parking Committee's recommendations for the 2018 budget followed by a second.

NO PARKING

THIS SIDE OF STREET

10:00 PM EVEN DAYS

TO

10:00 AM NEXT DAY

WINTER

TOW AWAY ZONE

NOV 1 TO APRIL 30

NO PARKING

THIS SIDE OF STREET

10:00 PM ODD DAYS

TO

10:00 AM NEXT DAY

WINTER

TOW AWAY ZONE

NOV 1 TO APRIL 30